



Coordinators AGM Report July 1st 2009- June 30th 2010

Significant Highlights

- The Majura Valley project has been a real success and has established a new model for consultation with landholders affected by development. By being involved in this project the MCG has developed a strong relationship with the rural landholders in the Valley which opens up the potential for involvement in a range of sustainable agriculture activities. It is important to maintain our presence in the Valley after we have put in so much work to establish our name with the landholders. I believe this will be made a lot easier thanks to the establishment of the Majura Valley Landcare group which was formed as a direct result of this project. Already we have worked with this group (since the end of the financial year) to establish 2 on-ground projects and extend Waterwatch in the area. The report itself has been taken up by government and some recommendations have already been implemented, including the establishment of a reference group for the Parkway that includes local residents and the MCG.
- The Seeing Grasslands project was another highlight, despite its flaws. The field days really captured the imagination of a new audience and the exhibition was a great success in terms of the amount of people through the door to take in the images of our amazing grasslands. It was disappointing not to see some of the community pictures included in the exhibition but we will learn from this experience and implement some changes next time we are involved with a similar project. The Flickr website will be a fantastic resource for us and the community.
- The Sustainability on Small farms project wrapped up and demonstrated outstanding value for money. We held nine open farm/field days rather than the predicted 5 with a total of 216 people in attendance. Field days included a wide range of topics relevant to small farm managers, this included a Native Grass and Pasture Weed seminar, the hugely popular Managing Horses on Small Properties field days, organic farming day at Pialligo Apples, and a knowledge building session called Reading the Landscape with David Tongway held in a Burra. As part of the on-ground component of the project we delivered, through Greening Australia:
 - 34 site visits leading to 22 management agreements signed by landowners which expended all on-ground funding.
 - The 33.8ha of revegetation utilised local provenance tubestock and provides habitat linkages and stepping stones between remnant patches.
 - 6.4ha of grassy box woodland protected by fencing.
 - Two landowners were provided with funding towards the cost of chemicals, as part of integrated control programs across 38.9 ha.
 - A total of 79.1ha under voluntary management agreements, 33.8ha of revegetation, 38.9ha of Serrated Tussock control and 6.4ha fenced.
- The Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring Feasibility study was another highlight. This project allowed us to ensure we had the right tool to establish a monitoring program for the community. Since June 30th we have gained funding to roll out a community based biodiversity monitoring program across the ACT and Region. Our challenge now is to ensure the monitoring is relevant and that it becomes embedded in the region, to do this it would be fantastic to see PCS using the project to monitor the success of their weed control programs. It would also be valuable to see ACT Government build in monitoring of funded on-ground projects into the Act Environment Grants.

- The range of topics we have held field days and workshops on over the reporting period has certainly offered something for everyone. Topics have included grazing management, weed identification, photographing native grasses and reading the landscape. By my count we have held or been involved with:
 - 9 field days
 - 8 Workshops
 - Attended 10 public events
 - And provided ChemCert training to 2 volunteers.
- The MCG Project Funding continues to build momentum, this year we have assisted 6 groups (up from 5 in 2010) with tools and chemicals to support volunteering opportunities.
- The Guide to Water plants of the ACT and Region which was developed by Stephen and Vanessa was printed and, like the Frog Guide, has been hugely popular. The MCG has distributed 993 of the guides, that does not include the number distributed by other groups. The Guides were well publicised as we received numerous requests for them in the days and weeks after they're release.
- Due to the popularity of our Frog Guides and Weed Packs we were able to secure funding for a reprint. Both continue to fly out the door.
- Molonglo Catchment Project funding continues to grow with 6 applications this year. With some refinement this initiative can not only assist our volunteer groups to meet their goals but can help the MCG meet targets set out in our Catchment Strategy.
- We welcomed new groups this year in Majura Valley landcare and Friends of Glenburn Homestead. Since the end of the financial year we have begun talks to establish a Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands group also.

General Progress

- We continue to develop the communities knowledge and skills to identify and deal with NRM issues. This is demonstrated through the various workshops and field days held on topics including operating a GPS, pest animal management, weed identification, sustainable agriculture, along with the range a Waterwatch related days and workshops.
- Continued to expand the scope of the MCG's projects, this year we continued our association with the local arts community via Along the Molonglo and extended into new areas via Seeing Grasslands, we continued to expand out sustainable land management programs with a grazing management field day and attempts to establish a demonstration property for the horse management field days, we have expanded our focus to include areas outside the catchment when relevant and we established a range of contacts in the Majura Valley.
- Completed the SSF project, the Majura Valley project along with several ACT Environment grants.
- Continued to work closely with our networks including PCS Community Programs Officer, ACT Landcare Facilitator, GCG and SACTCG Coordinators and the Source Water Protection Team.
- Catchment from the Air was completed.
- We met all milestones set for us in our base funding deed.

Involvement in regional NRM issues:

- We continue to support groups such as the Conservation Council ACT and Region in the writing of submissions rather than utilise MCG resources to do this.

Education, Field days, Plantings etc:

- Printing and distribution of Weed Packs, Frog Guides, Wild Life Friendly Fencing and Waterplants guide.
- Grass and Pasture Weeds Seminar in Canberra.
- Reading the Landscape field day with David Tongway in Burra.
- 13 meetings with Landholders in the Majura Valley.
- Vegetation monitoring workshops with Sarah Sharp in Carwoola, Majura,
- 2 Managing Horses on Small Properties Workshops with Jane Myers and Alison Elvin workshops
- Workshop on Vegetation Monitoring trial.
- Linked corporate volunteers with Royalla Landcare for a planting day.
- Seeing Grasslands workshops.
- Managing Riparian vegetation.
- GPS Training day with STEP.
- Lower Molonglo Valley Monitoring workshop.
- Queanbeyan Regatta and Enviro Expo.
- Festival of the Forests.
- Weeds field days in Carwoola.
- Sustainable agriculture and soil carbon field days.
- PlatypusWatch and FrogWatch sessions.
- Support of FoMM National Tree Day.
- Developed the Guide to Water Plants of the ACT and Region.

Closing comments and the year ahead:

Once again I would like to thank the group for a very enjoyable and productive year. Thanks to everyone on the committee for their input throughout the year into the various projects. It has been great to welcome Karen onto the committee this year and to have her and John keep us informed of the activities in Oaks Estate. I would like to thank Sandy for all the work she has put into the MCG over her time as a committee member and wish her a speedy recovery, hopefully we see her back at the MCG soon.

The year ahead will be a challenging one for the MCG with the Biodiversity Monitoring Project needing plenty of work to ensure it establishes itself as a must for Landcare groups in the region and government. The Catchment Strategy will be updated to incorporate the views of the community once again, this again will involve plenty of work during consultations and re-writing of the document. Meanwhile the development of the Molonglo catchment will continue and we face challenges to maintain and build the momentum for BoB Molonglo and ensure we are involved with the Googong and East Lake developments.